

a1  
a satellite having an eccentric, geosynchronous orbit with respect to the earth having sky track when viewed from within said service area, said orbit being inclined relative to an equatorial plane of the earth; and

an operating arc defined by a subset of points on said sky track over said service area, said satellite operating on said operating arc.

Please cancel claims 2 and 3.

Claim 8. (Amended) A satellite communications system comprising:

a service area on a surface of the earth having a predetermined minimum elevation angle from the horizon;

[a satellite having an orbit with respect to the earth having a first fixed repeating sky track when viewed from within said service area;]

a ground station located within said service area;

a first satellite having a first eccentric, geosynchronous orbit with respect to the earth having a first sky track when viewed from within said service area, said first orbit having first inclination relative to an equatorial plane of the earth;

a second satellite having a second eccentric, geosynchronous orbit with respect to the earth having a second sky track when viewed from within said service area, said second orbit having a second inclination relative to an equatorial plane;

said first satellite having a first operating arc defined by a first subset of points on said sky track over said service area, said first satellite operating within the service area;

said second satellite having a second operating arc defined by a second subset of points on the said second sky track within said service area, said second satellite operating within the service area.

Please cancel claim 12.

a3  
SUB C3  
Claim 17. (Amended) A method of providing a system of [inclined eccentric geosynchronous] satellite orbits, the method comprising: